

REMARKS

I. Status of the Claims

Claims 1-3, 5-17, 19-27 and 86 are pending in this application, and stand rejected. Claims 1, 15 and 86 are independent. By this amendment, claims 1, 15 and 86 are amended. No new matter has been introduced by this amendment.

Applicant wishes to thank to the Examiner for the courtesy extended in the telephone interview conducted on July 19, 2007. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application in view of the foregoing amendment and following remarks. Applicant amended the claims by incorporating the Examiner's suggestions made during the telephone interview.

II. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1, 3, 5, 8, 15, 17, 19, 21 and 86 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,072,912 to Orito (hereafter, "Orito") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,701,505 to Yamashita, et al. (hereafter, "Yamashita") and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,679,074 to Sugiura, et al. (hereafter, "Sugiura").

Claims 7, 9-14, 20 and 22-27 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Orito, Yamashita and Sugiura and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,728,008 to Kamisuwa (hereafter, "Kamisuwa").

Claims 2, 6 and 16 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Orito, Yamashita and Sugiura and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,875,260 to Ohta (hereafter, "Ohta").

The present invention is directed to image correction in an image sensing system including an image sensing apparatus and an image processing apparatus. Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, "wherein the image sensing characteristic indicates spatial positional deviations of a plurality of colors of pixel signals, obtained by said plurality of photoelectric conversion element arrays of said image sensor, with respect to one of said pixel signals obtained by one of said plurality of photoelectric conversion element arrays."

The Office Action admits on page four that Orito does not disclose that "the image sensing characteristic indicates spatial positional deviations of a plurality of colors of pixel signals, obtained by said plurality of photoelectric conversion element arrays of said image

sensor, with respect to one of said pixel signals obtained by one of said plurality of photoelectric conversion element arrays.” However, the Office Action asserts that Yamashita discloses the above recited feature.

Referring to Fig. 26 and relevant portions of the original specification (e.g., page 5, lines 16-22 and page 52, line 22 to page 53, line 4), the image sensing unit as described in claim 1 is configured with *inter alia*, three (R, G and B) photodiode arrays (lines). Since in it is impossible to place the R, G and B photodiode arrays in exactly the same position, they are arranged side by side. The present invention corrects the positional deviations between the R, G and B photodiode arrays included in the single image sensing unit.

By contrast, the apparatus taught by Yamashita corrects the gap between the sensor chips 321-325. The “gap” Δx , as shown in Fig. 7 of Yamashita indicates the gap between the sensor chips 321-325. Yamashita provides no teaching or suggestion of correcting the spatial positional deviation between the lines within each chip.

Nonetheless, claim 1 is amended for further clarification. In particular, amended claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, “wherein the image sensing characteristic indicates spatial positional deviations of a the plurality of colors of pixel signals, obtained by said plurality of photoelectric conversion element arrays within a single chip of said image sensor, with respect to one of said pixel signals obtained by one of said plurality of photoelectric conversion element arrays.” Claims 15 and 86 have been amended to recite similar features to amended claim 1 as described herein.

Applicant submits that the cited references (i.e., Orito, Yamashita, Sugiura, Kamisuwa and Ohta), either taken alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest at least “wherein the image sensing characteristic indicates spatial positional deviations of a the plurality of colors of pixel signals, obtained by said plurality of photoelectric conversion element arrays within a single chip of said image sensor, with respect to one of said pixel signals obtained by one of said plurality of photoelectric conversion element arrays”, as required by independent claim 1.

In view of the above, amended independent claim 1 is believed distinguishable from the cited references (i.e., Orito, Yamashita, Sugiura, Kamisuwa and Ohta) for at least the reasons discussed above.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 15 and 86 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

Applicant has not specifically addressed the rejections of the dependent claims. Applicant respectfully submits that the independent claims (1, 15 and 86) from which they depend either directly or indirectly, are in condition for allowance as set forth above. Accordingly, the dependent claims also are in condition for allowance. Applicant, however, reserves the right to address such rejections of the dependent claims in the future as appropriate.

Applicant believes that the application as amended is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims and allowance of this application.

AUTHORIZATION

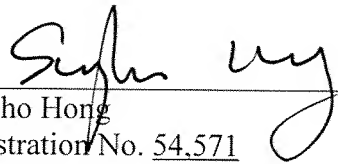
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for consideration of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. **13-4500**, Order No. **1232-4677**. A DUPLICATE OF THIS DOCUMENT IS ATTACHED.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. **13-4500**, Order No. **1232-4677**. A DUPLICATE OF THIS DOCUMENT IS ATTACHED.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: July 20, 2007

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